

House File 2237 - Introduced

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BY NUNN

(COMPANION TO LSB 5765SS BY
PETERSEN)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an AmeriCorps program for the economic
2 well-being and health of refugees and making an
3 appropriation.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 15H.5, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code
2 2016, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Funding for the Iowa summer youth corps program, the Iowa
4 green corps program established pursuant to [section 15H.6](#), and
5 the Iowa reading corps program established pursuant to section
6 15H.7, and the RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program established
7 pursuant to section 15H.8, shall be obtained from private
8 sector, and local, state, and federal government sources, or
9 from other available funds credited to the community programs
10 account, which shall be created within the economic development
11 authority under the authority of the commission. Moneys
12 available in the account for a fiscal year are appropriated to
13 the commission to be used for the programs. The commission
14 may establish an escrow account within the authority and
15 obligate moneys within that escrow account for tuition or
16 program payments to be made beyond the term of any fiscal year.
17 Notwithstanding [section 12C.7, subsection 2](#), interest earned
18 on moneys in the community programs account shall be credited
19 to the account. Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys in the
20 community programs account or escrow account shall not revert
21 to the general fund but shall remain available for expenditure
22 in future fiscal years.

23 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 15H.8 RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program.

24 1. a. The Iowa commission on volunteer service, in
25 collaboration with the department of human services, shall
26 establish a Refugee Rebuild, Integrate, Serve, Empower
27 (RefugeeRISE) AmeriCorps program to increase community
28 integration and engagement for diverse refugee communities in
29 rural and urban areas across the state.

30 b. The commission, in collaboration with the department
31 of human services, may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to
32 implement and administer this section.

33 2. The commission may use moneys in and lawfully available
34 to the community programs account created in section 15H.5 to
35 fund the program.

1 3. The commission shall submit an annual report to the
2 general assembly and the department of human services relating
3 to the efficacy of the program.

4 Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION — RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps. There
5 is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
6 department of human services for the fiscal year beginning July
7 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017, the following amount, or so
8 much thereof as is necessary, for the purposes designated:
9 \$ 350,000

10 Of the funds appropriated in this section, \$350,000 is
11 transferred to the economic development authority for the Iowa
12 commission on volunteer services to be used for RefugeeRISE
13 AmeriCorps program member recruitment and training to
14 improve the economic well-being and health of economically
15 disadvantaged refugees in local communities across Iowa. Funds
16 appropriated in this section may be used to supplement federal
17 funds under federal regulations.

18 EXPLANATION

19 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
20 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

21 This bill establishes the RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program and
22 makes appropriations.

23 The bill requires the Iowa commission on volunteer service
24 (commission), in collaboration with the department of
25 human services (DHS), to establish a RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps
26 program to increase community integration and engagement for
27 diverse refugee communities in rural and urban areas across
28 the state. The commission may use moneys in and lawfully
29 available to the community programs account created within
30 the economic development authority (ECA) under the authority
31 of the commission to fund the program. The commission, in
32 collaboration with DHS, may adopt rules to implement and
33 administer the program and shall submit an annual report to
34 the general assembly and DHS relating to the efficacy of the
35 program.

1 The bill makes a general fund appropriation for fiscal year
2 2016-2017 to DHS for transfer to the ECA for the commission to
3 be used for RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program member recruitment
4 and training to improve the economic well-being and health of
5 economically disadvantaged refugees in local communities across
6 Iowa. Funds appropriated may be used to supplement federal
7 funds under federal regulations.